

What is claimed is:

~~6/11/01~~ 1. A method for manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) hydroforming a first side rail so as to have an integrally formed mounting structure;
- (b) providing a second side rail;
- (c) providing a cross member;
- (e) securing the cross member to the side rails; and
- (f) connecting a component of the vehicle to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail.

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